

On Bos Gaurus.—By DR. SPILSBURY.

[Extract of a letter from Dr. Spilsbury (with plate) to Prof. W. B. O'Shaughnessy.]

"Ouseley writes me that he has sent you the skull and horns of a wild bull; now I send you a frontal and occipital view of a bovine skull, and part of horn (similar animal as delineated in November Journal) both done to the same scale; the upper one shews well the breadth and flatness of the occiput, and the whole being clear of matrix, a good notion is obtained of the size of the horn, of the teeth, breadth of skull, &c. You have a good view in the former plate.* Now I should like to have a cognoscent account of this animal. I have perused Dr. Evans' paper on *Bos Gaurus*; Pearson on *Gour*, and *Gyal*; and Hodgson on the *Bibos*, all in vol. VI. for 1837, of the *Asiatic Journal*, without being able to come to a conclusion as to which the fossil belongs, and it is equally distinguished from the fossil *Buffalo*. The horn of the latter is straight, also great breadth of forehead, as shewn in the contrasted specimens No. 3 and 9 with Nos. 7, and 8, in the November Journal. Along with the fossil ones, I send you a drawing of a recent head of the wild bull, as found in our wilds, for comparison with the *Sirgorjals*. This specimen has the crest, as shewn in p. 16, vol. VI. but I do not think so large, but the age of the animal may alter it; see p. 18, same vol. Hardwicke's horn and forehead are delineated, which does not come so near the appearance of ours as p. 16. The fossil has no crest, and the horns are quite different; so I submit them to the cognoscent, and shall be glad to see your remarks, or those of some one conversant with Zoology upon them. I have another batch nearly ready for transportation, which will be under weigh in due season."

Note.—I regret exceedingly that the departure of Dr. Thomson, our late Curator, prevented my having the pleasure of submitting the above extract, and the accompanying plates with remarks upon them, with which he had promised to furnish me. I trust that Dr. Spilsbury's discovery may not pass uncommented upon, and shall have great satisfaction in giving early publication to the further specimens he promises to oblige us with.



* November Journal, 1839.

*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.**(Wednesday Evening, 5th August, 1840.)*

The Honorable H. T. PRINSEP, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair.

The Proceedings of the last Meeting were read.

J. J. TORRENS, Esq., Rev. A. WALLIS, Mr. A. CAMPBELL, Dr. THOMSON, Major POTTINGER, and Baboo RAMGOPAUL GHOSE, proposed at the last Meeting, were ballotted for, and duly erected members of the Society.

Major RAWLINSON was proposed by Lieut. C. B. CONOLLY, seconded by the Officiating Secretary.

Read letters from Messrs. EDWARD BALFOUR, Secretary to the Royal College of Surgeons, and JOHN WASHINGTON, Secretary to the Geographical Society of London, acknowledging receipt of the 2nd part of the 20th vol. of the Asiatic Researches.

Library.

The following books were presented:—

Transactions of the Geological Society of London, vol. 5, pt. 2nd. second series.—

By the Society.

Madras Journal of Literature and Science, vol. 26.—*By the Madras Literary Society.*

Transits as observed, and Calculation of the Apparent Right Ascensions 1834.—

By the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Zenith Distances observed with the Mural Circle, and Calculation of Geocentric South Polar distances, 1836, 37.—*By ditto.*

Bessel's Refraction Tables—*By ditto.*

The Oriental Christian Spectator, No. 6. vol. 1.—*By the Editor.*

General Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries at Copenhagen; in French 2 copies; in English and French, 3 copies; and in English, French, Danish, &c. 2 copies, 7 Nos.—*By the Society.*

Memoires de la Societe Royale des Antiques du Nord, 1836-37.—*By ditto.*

Annaler for Nordisk Oldkyndighed—*By ditto.*

Bulletin de la Societe de Geographi, vol. 11th, 2d series—*By the Geographical Society of Paris.*

Journal Asiatique, Vol. 6th 3d Series Nos. 34, 35, and 36, from October to December; 1838, Vol. 7th Nos. 37—42; January to June 1839, Vol. 8th Nos. 43—47, July to November 1839.—*By the Asiatic Society of Paris.*

L'Indicateur des Poids et Mesures Metriques instructions par M. Martin Victor Paquet.—*By the author.*

Weber die indischen Verwandtschaften in Aegyptischen.—*By Professor Othmar Frank.*

Gelelorte Auzeigen.—*By ditto.*

The following books were purchased:—

Naturalist's Library, Vol. 6th.

Yarrell's History of British Birds, part 17.

Annals of Natural History, No. 28.

Literary and Antiquities.

Read a letter from Captain McLEOD, correcting an error in the position of the coal fields in Tenasserim as published in the map of the Coal Committee in the Society's last number of the Journal.

The Officiating Secretary then laid before the Meeting a curious *pootee* (religious work) which he received from a Jain priest, mentioned in the last number of the Journal. The MSS. was dated 1508 sumbut, being about 400 years old, and was produced by the priest in support of his assertion that one of Lieut. Conolly's gems, mentioned in the above number of the Journal, gave the heads of a Buddhist teacher bearded, and with a cloth over the mouth. A figure, illuminated in the style of the old missals, was given in this Manuscript in position to support the Jotee's argument. He also attempted the explanation of the supposed monogram (No. 1. pl. I. As. Soc. Jour. No. 98) by stating that it represented the Seuthi Sthapani, or stand for supporting sacred works in use among Buddhists. Captain McLEOD inclined to consider the explanation a very fair conjecture; but the Officiating Secretary stated that the Jotee's interpretation, as well as the result of further investigation on the other gems were not published in this number, as it was wished to invite further inquiry, and also to accompany them with corrected copies of the ancient character on No. 6 gem, which had been faultily lithographed.

The Officiating Secretary called the attention of the Meeting to a paper containing Memoranda by Mr. PIDDINGTON, regarding the Law of Storms. A portion of this paper was read to the Meeting. Mr. PIDDINGTON, mentioned that he had met with difficulties in procuring the information he required, to enable him to carry out his object, from the unwillingness of some, and the want of time, &c. in the commanders of vessels, to give extracts of their logs regarding the bad weather they might have experienced on their passage. On this account Mr. PIDDINGTON wished the Society to apply to Government for the issuing of some order, making it compulsory on all commanders of vessels giving the requisite information on their entering port. Mr. PRINSEP thought that Government would not adopt any compulsory measures, as commanders of vessels were only answerable to their owners for their log books; but he doubted not that they would use every persuasive means, and make the strongest appeals to their feelings for the desired information, and even if it would be of use, a lithographed letter of thanks should be given to all who afford the required information, on their leaving port. Mr. PIDDINGTON desired it to be understood, that only those parts of their logs as related expressly to the state of the few days bad weather which vessels might have experienced, and the situation of the ship at the time, were all that were solicited. The Officiating Secretary said that he would throw all that had been urged into the form of a letter to Government, and solicit it to make an appeal to Officers and Commanders of vessels that every facility might be given to Mr. PIDDINGTON, for the accomplishment of his object.

A palm leaf Manuscript on Burmese Cosmogony, was exhibited at the Meeting by Captain McLEOD, who informed them that the Manuscript in question is the property of Dr. BAYFIELD, and that he would take an early opportunity of presenting the Society with a similar work on the arrival of his books.

Read a communication from Mr. CAMPBELL, regarding the Lepchas.

Museum.

Read a letter from Mrs. DENHAM, forwarding one of the balustrades of the old London bridge.

A collection of snakes preserved in spirits was presented by W. PORTEOUS, Esq.

The Officiating Secretary regretted to inform the Meeting that the Society has been deprived of the services of their Curator Dr. T. THOMSON, on account of his being ordered to proceed to the Upper Provinces. During the short time Dr. THOMSON, undertook the duties of Curator, he rearranged the specimens of natural history, &c. in the Society's Rooms, and was of very material service in other departments of the Museum.
